C L A I M S

1. A system for expanding a tubular element extending into a wellbore formed in an earth formation, the system comprising:

- an expander arranged to expand the tubular element by virtue of axial movement of the expander through the tubular element;
- an activating system for inducing the expander to move through the tubular element, the activating system including at least one activating tool; and
- a control system for controlling the activating system, including a remote control unit and for each activating tool a respective controller, the remote control unit being arranged to transmit an acoustic signal to an acoustic conductor selected from said tubular element and another elongate member extending into the borehole, each controller being arranged to receive said acoustic signal from the acoustic conductor and to control the corresponding activating tool upon receipt of said acoustic signal.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the tubular element is a wellbore casing.

3. The system of claim 1 or 2, wherein said another elongate member is a body of fluid contained in the tubular element.

4. The system of any one of claims 1-3, wherein each controller is provided with a respective energy source arranged to activate the corresponding activating tool upon receipt of said acoustic signal by the controller.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the energy source is one of a hydraulic energy source, an electrical energy source and a mechanical energy source.

6. The system of any one of claims 1-5, wherein a first said activating tool is a hydraulic pulling tool for pulling the expander through the tubular element.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein a second said activating tool is an expandable anchor arranged to anchor the pulling tool to the interior surface of the tubular element upon expansion of the anchor.

8. The system of any one of claims 1-7, wherein a third said activating tool is an expandable packer for sealing an end portion of the tubular element, said packer being releasably connected to the expander.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the expander and said packer are provided with a latching mechanism for latching the packer to the expander.

10. The system substantially as described hereinbefore with reference to the accompanying drawings.